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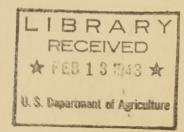
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE U. SBUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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THE FARM LABOR SITUATION ON WISCONSIN DAIRY FARMS



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SUMMARY

- 1. Family labor provided 88 percent of all labor used on Jefferson County farms in 1942. Hired labor made up 12 percent.
- 2. There was a little less labor hired (.53 months) in 1942 than in 1941 on the average Jefferson County farm. Extra family labor made up the difference.
- 3. Livestock numbers were increased in Jefferson County in 1942 over 1941 with no increase in labor force.
- 4. Farm operators worked longer hours, wives spent more time at farm labor, and sons spent more time out of school to help in 1942.
- 5. Men of military age provided 20.4 percent of the total labor supply on Jefferson County farms in 1942. Labor of farmers' sons of military age made up 10.8 percent and hired men of military age made up 9.6 percent of all farm labor.
- 6. Drafting of farm workers has not disrupted production in Jefferson County. Less than 100 farm workers have been drafted, while 645 have been deferred.
- 7. Uncertainty of whether workers of military age will be available for work for longer than 3 months at a time is an important hazard to production planning. It is retarding possible increases in production.
- 8. Net farm income increased proportionately more in 1942 than the total farm wage bill even though farm wage rates increased more than farm prices. Short-time day labor is difficult to find but is being provided by farmers' sons and operators of small farms. Year-round married hands are being maintained by those with housing facilities.
- 9. Curtailment in the dairy labor force has not yet been an important factor in curtailing dairy production in Wisconsin. Cow numbers are still highest in history in the State.
- 10. Production of milk in Wisconsin for the 12 months ending October 1942 was 105 percent of the previous 12 months. Milk production on 30 Jefferson County farms, taken at random from milk plant records, is 3 percent above a similar period last year.
- 11. Productive dairy cows are not being sent to slaughter. Unproductive cull cows bring good prices as beef but still much below the price paid by an active demand for milk cows.

This report is made at the request of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture for information on the dairy situation in Wisconsin. Items of information requested include information on wage rates to dairy workers, labor supply, maintenance of dairy cow numbers and production, and price and marketing problems affecting returns to dairy farmers. All the field work for this study was done from November 17 to November 21, 1942.

Jefferson County, in southeastern Wisconsin, was selected for a study of individual farm situations. Farm labor situations and farm adjustments were discussed with the farm operators and recorded for 102 farms in the county. In addition, three groups of farmers of about 10 each were called together by the County Agricultural Agent to discuss with members of the BAE staff and a representative of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station the dairy-production problems with special reference to farm labor. These three groups of farms represented (1) those farms with less than 12 cows, (2) those with 12-19 cows, and (3) those with 20 cows or more. The County USDA War Board assisted in the selection of well-informed farmers to attend these meetings.

Jefferson County is considered typical of southern Wisconsin dairy production, representing one-half of the production in the State. Milk is produced for cheese factories, condenseries, creameries, and for whole milk within the County.

I .-- The Dairy-Farm Labor Force

The agricultural census shows 28 percent of all Wisconsin farmers hired some labor in September 1940. Eighteen percent hired labor by the month. In Jefferson County, 36 percent of all farms hired some labor and 26 percent hired labor by the month, according to the 1940 census.

On the 102 farms in Jefferson County on which records were taken, 62 percent hired some labor in 1942 and 58 percent hired labor in 1941.

From the standpoint of appraising the effect on dairy farms of further depletion of hired workers or loss of family workers, the following points are significant:

(1) Eighty-eight percent of all work on farms in Jefferson County was provided by the farmer and his family in 1942. In 1941, 85 percent.

^{1/} Prepared by the North Central Regional Office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The study was completed November 25, 1942.

- (2) Twelve percent of all work on farms in Jefferson County was hired in 1942. In 1941, 15 percent.
- (3) Sons of military age performed 10.8 percent of all work on farms in Jefferson County in 1942. In 1941, 11 percent.
- (4) Hired labor of military age performed 9.6 percent of all work on farms in Jefferson County.

Hired labor was more important on farms with larger numbers of cows. Farms with less than 12 cows hired only 1.3 percent of their labor, whereas farms milking 20 or more cows hired 27.4 percent. (Appendix table 10)

Relative proportions of hired labor and family labor on Jefferson County farms in 1942 $\frac{1}{2}$

	: Proportion	of total labor	r used in 1942
Source of labor		: 12-19 cows :1:	
	: Percent	Percent	Percent
Hired labor	27.4	10.0	1.3
Family labor:			
Operator	: 44.5	55.0	74.8
Wife	5.1	11.7	18.9
Son	21.6	20.0	3.0
Other	1.4	3.3	2.0
1/1000	. /2		

^{1/ 102} farms in Jefferson County. (See also Appendix table 10)

The amount of man-labor used per cow varied with the size of the cow herds and the size of the farms. The larger farms kept more cows per man and handled more crops per man than did the smaller farms.

Variation in labor used on farms of varying size1/

Item	20+		: 12-19 cows	: 11 or less : cows
	: 1942	1941	: 1942 1941	: 1942 1941
Days of man-labor:		-7		
Per cow	28.5	28.8	34.5 . 37.5	47.1 44.7
Percacre	3.93	3.81	5.31 5.43	5.28 5.34

^{1/ 102} farms in Jefferson County

These variations which show greater efficiency of man-labor on the larger farms can be partially explained by greater use of labor-saving machinery. On farms with 20 cows or more, 89 percent used milking machines. On the 12- to 19-cow farms, 47 percent used milking machines. On the farms with less than 12 cows, 9 percent used milking machines. Other factors not covered in this survey may be responsible for a part of this difference.

Total Labor Supply Maintained in 1942

Less labor was hired in 1942 than in 1941 on the 102 farms in Jefferson County. Family labor increased to make up the difference. Each group of farms had substantially the same amount of labor both years. From the 102 farm records it is calculated that on the average, each farm hired 0.53 months less labor in 1942 than in 1941.

Source of labor supply on different size farms 1/

T1		cows	: 12-19		: 11.or less cows					
Item	1942	: 1941	: 1942 :	1941	: 1942	: 1941				
Labor used (total mos.):	25.19	24.45	18.90	19.32	15.07	15.24				
Hired Labor	6.91	7.35	1.89	2.12	0.20	1.24				
Family labor	1									
Operator	11.20	11.05	10.40	10.36	11.27	11.27				
Wife	1.28	0.93	2.20	2.14	2.84	2.02				
Sons	5.45	4.89	3.79	3.83	0.45	0.40				
Daughters	0.10	0.05	0.09	0.34	0.04	0.04				
Other	0.25	0.18	0.53	0.53	0.27	0.27				

^{1/ 102} farms in Jefferson County

In recording the changes in the labor situation on the 102 individual farms in Jefferson County, it was pointed out many times that the farm operator was putting in longer working hours and, particularly, that the wife was doing more farm work.

Not only had the wives worked more, but also more months of labor were furnished by farmers' sons. Several cases were found where sons were taken out of high school and college this year to help full time on the farm. These are sacrifices being made to meet existing pressures.

Figures given above on total labor used smooth out the picture of the peak needs which develop on individual farms, such as putting up hay, corn shredding, silo filling, and harvesting canning crops. These peaks must be met by more hours of labor, either by longer hours of the regular workers or by getting more workers. This seasonal demand in the past has been met partly by calling on farmers' sons on nearby farms or operators of small farms who could spare a few days labor from their own farms. This source is still available to some extent. In years past it has been possible to get extra help from villages and towns when needed. In 1942 it was almost impossible to find men from this source. It is expected to become practically nonexistent except for some industrial workers who are willing to help on the farm during their days off.

Farm Labor Force and Military Service

On Jefferson County farms in 1942, 20.4 percent of all labor on farms was provided by farmers' sons and hired men of military age (18-45).2 The proportion provided by each is as follows:

9.6 percent of all labor on Jefferson County farms was provided by hired men of military age 10.8 percent of all labor on Jefferson County farms was provided by farmers' sons of military age.

The two draft board offices in Jefferson County provided the following information:

Total men called to military service to	
November 20, 1942	1,025
Number of farm boys called (estimated)	
Less than	100
Farm workers deferred	645

On the 102 farms on which records were taken in Jefferson County, the following situation was found with respect to 46 farmers' sons of military age (18-45) who had worked on their fathers' farms in either 1941 or 1942:

^{2/} Farm operators of military age are not included in this figure.

(1)	Number drafted	1
(2)	Number enlisted	
(3)	Number deferred	12
(4)	Not yet classified or	
	not vet called	29

Uncertainty--A Production Obstacle: The fact that farmers are uncertain about labor from sons or from hired men of military age is an important hazard to production planning.

In Jefferson County 52 of the 102 farms surveyed used some labor in 1942 provided by men of military age, either sons or hired men, or both. None of these farms can plan definitely their production program for 1943 because of the threat of losing a portion of their labor supply on short notice. This fact was emphasized by individual farmers from whom records were taken and in the group meetings.

There is no evidence that actual disruptions caused by drafting farm hands in Jefferson County has decreased production in the county to date. But the uncertainty of losing farm labor to military service probably has retarded expansion on some farms and has been a definite disrupting influence to farmer morale.

During the time of the survey (November 17-21, 1942), a peacanning factory was attempting to get acreage contracted for 1943. Farmers were reluctant to sign contracts because of uncertainty of farm labor. The field agent found it necessary to permit farmers to sign with provisions to break the contract in case labor to carry out intentions should not be available.

An effort will be made soon to contract acreage of hemp in this general area, and particularly in Dodge County just to the north. Undoubtedly the farm labor situation will make it difficult to include hemp as a new crop in the community without decreasing canning crops or dairy production. Only a labor supply that can be relied upon throughout next year's cropping season will permit increased acreage of hemp without curtailing other vital production.

Farmers attending the group meetings recommended a policy of deferment of essential workers on high producing farms for a full crop season or a full year. It is argued that such a policy would result in production expansion on the farms affected because they could plan production with greater certainty. Attention was directed to the fact that on dairy farms the care and feeding of herds to maintain high production calls for a high degree of skill that can be learned only from many years of experience. Not all farm workers attain this high degree of skill. It was emphasized by the farmer groups that Selective Service should recognize these skilled workers in classifying men for military service.

Public announcements of the policy of Selective Service to classify or reclassify essential agricultural workers into Class C had not been made before farmers were interviewed. This new effort to stabilize essential farm workers will answer the objections to temporary deferments and will recognize skilled farm workers.

Activities of the Farm Placement Service in Jefferson County

From January 1 to November 20, 1942, the Farm Placement Service of the U.S. Employment Service in Watertown, Wisconsin, received orders from farmers in Jefferson County for 132 single workers of the regular or year-round type and for 29 married couples. The Placement Service was able to fill 82 of the orders for single men and 13 of the orders for couples--a total of 95 placements. In addition, 48 orders for day hands were filled--a total of 143 placements of farm workers. Lack of adequate housing was the greatest obstacle to placing more married farm workers.

For 1941, records are not available as to the number of orders: The total number of placements--single year-round workers, couples, and day hands--was 137. The manager of the U. S. Employment Service office stated as his recollection that the pressure of orders in 1942 was not significantly greater than in 1941. Whether this was because the need for workers in 1942 was not significantly greater than in 1941 or because of unawareness on the part of Jefferson County farmers that the U. S. Employment Service existed, is a question. According to the manager, no difficulty was experienced by the Employment Service in filling day-labor orders this season. The demand on the Employment Service office for seasonal farm labor in Jefferson County, the manager stated, is a very limited one.

During the interviews on 102 farms in Jefferson County, no farm operator volunteered a reference to the U.S. or State Employment Service in connection with his efforts to obtain farm labor. Apparently the services offered by the U.S. Employment Service require further publicizing and cooperative working relationships with farm groups and agricultural organizations if they are to be effective.

II .-- Wage Rates on Wisconsin Dairy Farms

Wisconsin farm wage rates in the past have followed farm prices closely. During the last year farm wage rates have increased somewhat faster than farm prices. On October 1, 1942, Wisconsin farm wages averaged 29 percent higher than a year earlier. The index of farm prices in Wisconsin increased from 155 to 176, or 21 points, during the same period. (Appendix table 1)

On October 1, 1942, monthly farm wage rates for the State averaged \$55 per month and day rates \$2.90 with board, as compared with \$42.50 per month and \$2.25 per day on October 1, 1941. Wages paid, not including board, averaged \$75.75 per month and \$3.75 per day on October 1, 1942, \$58 per month and \$2.90 per day a year earlier.2

In crop reporting District VIII average farm wages increased 30 percent between October 1, 1941, and October 1, 1942. Monthly wages with board, for instance, increased from \$46.39 to \$60.45. (Appendix table 2)

Data from Crop Reporting Service, Walter Ebling, State Statistician. Crop reporters' estimates of locality wage rates.

(Appendix table 1)

Includes the six south central Wisconsin counties -- Dane, Dodge, Columbia, Green Jefferson and Rock.

Crop reporters in Jefferson County indicate that average wage rates per month, without board, during the period October 1941 to October 1942 rose from \$58 to \$81 (\$23 increase); average rates per month with board, from \$43 to \$57 (\$14 increase); average daily rates without board, from \$2.70 to \$3.45 (\$0.75 increase); and average daily rates with board, from \$2.20 to \$2.75 (\$0.55 increase). Wage rates in Jefferson County did not advance as rapidly in 1942 as did wage rates in crop reporting District VIII. During 1942, there was evidence of a wider range in farm wages than in previous years, and a common wage or mode was less definite. This uncertainty as to common wage rates in 1942 is to be expected in periods of rapid change and results, in part, from the fact that those farmers who lost labor or were threatened with loss would offer much higher wages than those who had experienced no labor problem.

Data from current orders for year-round dairy farm workers on file at the U. S. Employment Service office in Watertown, Jefferson County, indicate that monthly rates, without board, varying from \$50 to \$80 (six cases, average \$70), were being currently offered, also monthly rates with board varying from \$30 to \$60 (15 cases, average \$45).

The 102 records taken on farms in Jefferson County include 64 farms on which some labor was hired. Out of the number hiring labor, only 11 hired married men and provided them with a house. Monthly wages for single hired men with room and board furnished average \$55 in 1942 and \$52.50 in 1941. (Appendix tables 3 and 4) Monthly cash wages for married hired men who were provided a house and perquisites averaged \$69.54 for 11 workers in 1942 and \$50.50 for 10 workers in 1941. Perquisites included, in addition to a house, milk, butter, eggs, meat, fuel, electricity, and garden space. No estimates were made by individual farmers on the value of these perquisites. It is likely, however, that the total value of perquisites furnished, including a reasonable rent for the house, would be \$35 a month. Board and room for single men can be valued at \$25 a month.

The wide ranges in rates shown in Appendix tables 3 and 4 are characteristic of farm wage rates. The range in cash wages cannot be explained entirely by differences in workers' ability nor by perquisites in addition to cash. In order to show wages for ablebodied men, the wages for handicapped and youthful, inexperienced workers were tabulated separately. (Appendix table 5) Adult handicapped workers were those not able to do a full man's work due to age, physical handicaps, habitual drunkenness, or those mentally slow or otherwise unreliable.

Relation of Farm Wages to Prices of Farm Products and Farm Income

Wage rates and farm prices both increased rapidly in 1942. Wage rates went up faster in comparison to rates in previous years than did farm prices. (Appendix table 11)

This should not be interpreted to mean that farm wages have outrun farmers' ability to pay. Net farm income and the total wage bill would be better comparisons than wages and prices. This information is not readily available for Wisconsin, but for the United States, the net farm income has increased faster than the total wage bill. In view of increased volume of production in Wisconsin, the same situation likely exists in this State with respect to comparative ability to meet farm wage rate increases.

Indexes of farm income and farm wage bill in the United States (1935-39 = 100)

• • • • • •			: Farm prices : of all farm : products2	
1935-39 1940 1941 1942	100 101 142 203	100 108 128 161	92 115 150	100 107 125 158

1/ Farm Income Situation, September 1942.

2/ Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter, October 1942; 1942 estimated on basis of first nine months of 1942 compared with similar period of 1941.

Agricultural Situation, August 1942; 1942 estimated on basis of increase for July 1942 over July 1941.

Industrial Wage Rates Compete for Farm Labor

Competition with Jefferson County dairy farms for labor comes not only from industrial enterprises within the county, but also from concerns in the Milwaukee and Madison areas and elsewhere. According to the manager of the U. S. Employment Service office in Watertown, the average starting rate in that town for common labor at factory assembly work. feeding machines in woodworking establishments, and structural steel assembling was, in November 1942. \$0.50 to \$0.55 per hour. The working week at Watertown averaged 41 hours. In August 1942, according to the State Industrial Commission, average hourly earnings in Watertown, including skilled and unskilled workers, were \$0.634. At Fort Atkinson, also in Jefferson County, a starting rate of \$0.65 per hour was being offered, with a 50-hour week prevailing. However, the manager of the U. S. Employment Service office stated that at both Watertown and Fort Atkinson, industrial employers had followed a policy of not seeking workers from dairy farms. It was the opinion of the manager, moreover, that at current rates a man with a family would receive a larger real income at dairy-farm employment than at unskilled industrial labor in Jefferson County or in the more distant industrial areas within the State.

In the case of unmarried men, or couples without children, however, the competitive situation differs since, in this case, employment may be more readily sought in more distant industrial

areas. In the Milwaukee district of the U. S. Employment Service, according to the assistant manager of the district office, starting rates for unskilled labor at general factory work run from \$0.60 to \$0.65 per hour. In the case of people with some mechanical knowledge, such as might come from experience with farm tractors or other motorized equipment, starting rates begin at \$0.75 to \$0.85 per hour. Depending on the type of work and the capacity of the individual, an inexperienced worker, beginning at a rate of \$0.60, may be shifted to a rate of \$0.85 within as short a period as two weeks. Working hours per week in the Milwaukee area were stated to be 48 at the time of inquiry. Thus the competitive threat in the case of unmarried dairy workers has been one of some significance.

Military service paying \$50 per month, plus room, board and clothes, offers significant competition for single men of military age.

Only three sons from the 102 farms studied who had worked on the farm in 1941 or 1942 had left to take work in industrial concerns. Two were driving milk trucks this year who had worked full time on the farm last year. No record was taken on the day laborers who worked on these farms and who may have later taken industrial employment.

III .-- Effect of Labor Supply on Production

Although the total labor supply on farms in Jefferson County was substantially the same in 1942 as in 1941, more dairy cows and other livestock were kept. This increase put additional demands upon the available labor.

On the 102 farms, the changes in livestock were as follows:

	1942 Number	1941 Number	Change Percent
Cows	2,037	1,949	+ 4.5
Heifers (freshened)	414	340	+21.7
Hogs fed out	1,697	1,341	+26.5
Hens	13,515	12,705	+ 6.4

The larger farms increased livestock numbers more than the small farms.

	: 20+	cows	: 12-19	cows	:11 or	less cows
Item	: 1942	: 1941	: .1942	: 1941	: 1942	: 1941
Cows Heifers (freshened) Hogs Hens	26.6 5.2 31.0		3.6	2.5	1.8	1.8
Crops in 1942: Corm (acres) Small grains (acres) Hay (acres) Special crcps (acres)	: 31.0 : 36.0 : 34.0 : 4.3	<u>2</u> /	20.0 21.0 21.0	<u>2/</u>	14.0 15.0 16.0 0.8	<u>2</u> /
Size of farms (acres)	:192.1	192.1	106.8	106.8	85.7	85.7

^{1/ 102} farms in Jefferson County

Estimates of Numbers of Milk Cows for Wisconsin: Since January 1, 1937, the number of cows in the State has increased steadily up to January 1, 1942. Taking January 1, 1939 as the base equal to 100, the relative numbers of cows estimated for the State were as follows:5

1937 - 98.0 1938 - 99.0 1939 - 100.0 1940 - 103.0 1941 - 105.0 1942 - 108.2

Crops have been better than average for the last six years. This has encouraged the raising of heifers and less culling of cows.

Price of Dairy Cows and Sale of Cows at Stockyards

Prices of milk cows in Wisconsin, as reported by the Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter for October 1942, have increased since 1933. In 1939 the average price per milk cow was \$70.60. In August and September 1942, the price of \$113, or 60 percent above the price in 1939. A number of farmers in the county reported prices of \$150 and over for good cows. Beef cattle prices per 100 pounds increased in approximately the same proportion—from \$5.93 in 1939 to \$9.60 in September 1942. Obviously, good milk cows are not being sold for beef so long as they will sell for more as milk cows. A very strong demand from cow buyers filling orders from many States keeps cows from reaching the stockyards unless they are no longer productive milkers.

^{2/} Crop acreages not recorded for 1941

^{5/} Data from Agricultural Statistician's office.

Records of cows sold for slaughter on the 102 farms surveyed in Jefferson County were not abnormally high. Cull cows to the extent of 10 percent of the total number of cows in the herds were sent to the butcher. Only two cases were found where cow numbers were drastically reduced because of labor shortage. One herd of 8 cows was sold after the hired man left. Another herd of 29 was reduced to 22 the day after the hired man left—all seven cows going to the butcher. There was no evidence on the other 100 farms that more than normal numbers of cull cows were going to slaughter.

Receipts of Cattle at Milwaukee Stockyards: The increase in cow numbers as shown by the farm survey in Jefferson County, and by the estimates of the State and U. S. Department of Agriculture, is also consistent with the cattle receipts at the Milwaukee stockyards since 1938. These cattle receipts are indicative of the numbers of cows culled. Again taking 1939 as the base year equal to 100, the relative cattle receipts were as follows:

1938 - 103 1939 - 100 1940 - 93 1941 - 91

1942 - 102.6 (for first 10 months)

Beginning with February 1942, each month of this year has shown more cattle marketed at Milwaukee than for the same month in 1941. In September and October, the receipts of cattle were higher than for the same months of any of the previous 4 years. For 10 months of 1942, the total number of cattle received was 15.5 percent above the number received for the same months of 1941, and 2.6 percent above the number received for the same months of 1939.

Low rates of culling for several years must be followed by higher rates of culling. Apparently the turning point came about February 1942, and may have been increased by the heavy frost early in September. This frost materially lowered the yield of soybeans and lowered the quality of the silage.

Auction Sales

Good farms are not being left idle in Jefferson County. Inquiries have been made in recent days at the County Agent's office and at a financing and loan company office at Fort Atkinson by persons seeking farms to rent. One of the local finance offices, which has financed auctions and other sales for many years in the county, was able to give information on 18 of the 20 sales that were advertised in one of the local papers from July to November. Deaths of owners, illness, age, and changing occupations accounted for 9 of the 18 farm sales. One of these farmers had the sale early in order to get ahead of gas rationing (the peak of sales comes in February since March 1 is the usual beginning date for farm leases). At one auction the new renter bought \$3,000 worth of the cattle, feed, and machinery sold at the auction. In three cases the auctions represented only a sale of surplus cattle that had been accumulated by farmers who were also dealers in cows. In four cases, farmers were

moving to other farms. Three of these were moving to smaller farms and had to dispose of a part of their herds. Two of these had been renting farms and were moving to smaller farms which they had bought. Two tenants had to sell out and move when the farms they had been operating were sold.

A report on farm auctions covering four counties in Wisconsin is being prepared for publication by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture. Preliminary results are in agreement with the above.

: Trend in Production of Milk

Total production of milk on 30 farms taken at random from milk plant records in Jefferson County so far this year is almost 3 percent above a similar period last year. Production during the first half of the year was heavy but production during July, August, September, and October was slightly below that in 1941. The trend in milk production for Wisconsin was also heavy during the first part of the year and lower the last part of the year, but it did not get below the 1941 level until October. Total production of milk in Wisconsin in 1942 is 5 percent above 1941.

Three samples of 10 farmers each were taken in Jefferson County. The samples of 10 farmers producing Grade A milk and of 10 farmers producing for a creamery showed heavy production early in the year and somewhat lower production in July, August, September, and October. The sample of 10 farms producing for a cheese factory showed much less decline in production in the summer and fall months. The production in 1942 was about 3 percent above 1941 for the group.

The prices paid by cheese factories for milk did not fluctuate as widely as that paid for other uses. The feed-milk price ratio for Wisconsin was much more favorable in the summer and fall of 1941 than at any time in 1942. In fact, the ratio was the most unfavorable in April, May, and June of 1942 of any months in the last 2 years. This, in all probability, had much more effect on production than scarcity of labor because the number of cows kept on farms in 1942 was larger than in 1941.

Milk Prices

Prices paid for milk reached higher levels in 1941 and 1942 in Jefferson County than at any other time in the last 5 years. By October 1941, the price paid for milk delivered to a local cheese factory was \$2.15. Milk to Grade A receiving stations reached a high of \$2.61 in November 1941. Prices declined from that time until June 1942 when the price for Grade A milk reached \$2.11. From this low point it advanced to \$2.81 in October.

^{6/} See Appendix table 6
7/ " " " 7
8/ " " 8

Prices paid by cheese factories were actually lower in 1942 during July, August, September, and October than during the same months a year ago. Grade A milk prices, however, were higher in 1942 than in the same months in 1941.9

Prices of Feed. Seed. and Fertilizer

Prices for concentrate feeds in Jefferson County were higher in 1942 than in 1941.10/ The increase ranged from 2 percent for 38 percent dairy ration to 73 percent for cottonseed meal. Oil meal and brewers' grains increased only 7 and 9 percent, respectively. Bran was not being fed as much as in 1941, it being largely displaced by brewers' grains and oil meal. Old soybean stocks were largely depleted by November 1942 and the new crop was not yet on the market. More feeds of all kinds, except bran and middlings, were being sold in 1942 than in 1941.

Almost all seeds increased 20 percent or more in price from 1941 to 1942. Alfalfa seed increased from \$13.80 per bushel to \$22.50 per bushel; clover seed from \$9.60 to \$12.50; sweet clover from \$4.85 to \$8.40; and hybrid corn from \$4.50 to \$5.50. The price of hybrid seed was expected to be \$6.50 in 1943.

Twine increased from \$3.95 per bale to \$4.66 per bale. Fertilizers which were available increased only slightly according to a local handler. Fertilizer with an analysis of 3-12-12 sold for \$39.80 in 1941 and \$40.30 in 1942. One with an analysis of 0-12-12 was \$34.10 in 1941 and \$34.60 in 1942.

IV .-- Potential Sources of Labor Supply

The greatest potential source of labor supply, of course, is from farm families within the community. As has been pointed out, only 12 percent of the total months of farm labor on Jefferson County farms was hired in 1942.

Over half of the men hired by the month were either men whose usual occupation is working on farms or who were former farm operators. Only a few have come directly from cities or villages. Of the day help, about half are boys from neighboring farms or small farmers who can spare a few days from their own farms.

Skepticism was generally expressed concerning the possibility of getting satisfactory help from professional people, high school students, or other residents of villages or cities, unless such persons had had farm experience at some time. A few indicated that they had tried such help and had not been satisfied. They reported that boys, in particular, were mostly interested in driving tractors or handling other machinery, and that the period of work was too short to justify training them for such work. Youthful workers present the same kind of problems to an employer that they do to their own parents. Farmers with a knack for good supervision make good use of high school boys.

9/ See Appendix table 8

In a number of cases relatives or friends from cities and towns helped out in haying or other busy periods. One farmer commented that he believed there were many retired farmers who might help greatly if they could be prevailed upon to work for a wage. Many of these are already working on farms operated by members of their own families. Several men who were working on farms had regular nonfarm jobs but worked part days, week ends, or odd days at farm work.

A majority of the farm women are doing more farm work than in the past, but the amount they can do is definitely limited by the necessary housework. In one or more instances, farmers are hoping to hire girls from villages or elsewhere to do part of the housework so that the farm women can do more of the farm work. A few cases were also found of farm women hiring out for corn picking or other farm work.

In any case, it appears that, if the supply of labor is reduced from the present level, or if increased production of agricultural products is attempted in the area, farmers will have to arrange somehow to make use of a still greater proportion of workers who, because of youth, age, sex, or physical condition, are not well qualified for the armed services or for industry.

To a considerable extent, hired labor on the farms visited consists of men of 45 or over, boys, and physically handicapped men. Many of those men from 20 to 44 years of age had failed to pass the physical examination for the armed forces. Thus, less than half of the men hired, either by the month or by the day, are to any substantial degree subject to the draft or are likely to be drawn off by industry. This composition of the hired labor force is to some extent the result of adjustments already made to the limited labor supply. It may also be an indication of the sources which must be looked to for maintenance of the necessary labor force in case of further depletion. The age distribution of 80 men, hired in 1942, for whom this information is available, is as follows:

Age group	Month help	Day help	Total
Under 18 years	10	8	18
18-14 years: Able-bodied	20	14	34
Handicapped 45-59 years	6	3	7 9
60 years or over	4	8	12
Totals	. 56	34 .	80

Very little experience has been had in this county with farm help from outside the area, such as from northern Wisconsin. There appears to be a feeling-with virtually no evidence to support it—that such help would be inferior in ability or industry. If arrangements could be made for a few good workers from northern Wisconsin to come into the area, a considerable demand for such help might develop as the supply of local labor grows more scarce.

Recruitment of Dairy Workers from Cut-over Areas of Northern Wisconsin

Early in the 1942 season the question was raised whether it might be possible to recruit dairy workers for farms in southern Wisconsin from the cut-over areas of the north. A preliminary survey in seven towns of Oneida, Forest, and Price Counties was undertaken by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Ü. S. Employment Service, the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service, and the Farm Security Administration. In these towns was found a total of 205 employable males, 18 years of age or older, who were likely prospects, because of underemployment in their present status, for employment elsewhere. These males constituted 22 percent of the total number of employable males of that age. Of the 205 underemployed persons, 94, or 46 percent, were farm workers.

The possibility of recruitment in the cut-over areas having been demonstrated, a survey was made of the conditions of demand in Manitowoc County. A number of definite job openings for dairy workers were found to exist, and definite orders for year-round farm couples and single hands were obtained. Subsequently, a few experimental placements of persons from the cut-over regions were made in Manitowoc, Marinette, E n, and Outagamie Counties.

In October 1942, it became possible for the Farm Security Administration to assist in financing transfers of farm laborers to areas where they were needed. In cooperation with the abovementioned agencies, a recruitment program was undertaken in Price County, the workers to be placed in Dodge County. At the time of this report a total of 46 farm couples and 29 farm hands had been registered in Price County as fully qualified and available for referral; of these, 24 couples and 14 farm hands had been referred for placement in Dodge County, at rates ranging from \$70 per month upwards in the case of the married men, and from \$50 to \$59 in the case of unmarried farm hands. Recruitment is now to be extended to other counties in the cut-over area and orders are being obtained from other counties in the South. The Farm Security Administration and the U. S. Employment Service are planning to expand this program, in anticipation of the needs in 1943.

APPENDIX

Table 1.--Wisconsin farm prices, purchasing power and Income (1910-1914 = 100)

	72.			75077		7				
	: VV	is. Far				Farm			: Ratio of	
	:	prices							:prices rec	
	:	index	:	index	:	index	:		: for milk	
-	:	1/	:	· <u>+</u> /	:	2/	:	paid l/	 :prices pai	
	:					•				\$1,000
1070	:	7.07		7.07		110		00	0.0	72/2/2
1938	:	103		101		110		82	* 80	316,160
1939	:	97		97		104		79	79	300,062
1940	•	103.	-	109		109	*.	83	. 88	334,748
1941	:	134		146		147		102	111	468,359
January	:	114		123				91	98	
February	:	111		117				90	94	
March	:	111	b	/				90	96	
April	:	118		123		W .		9.4	, 98	
May	:	122		131				96	103	
June	;	129		141				101	110	
July	:	137		147		-		105	112	
August	:	144		157				108	• 118	
September	•	153		170				112	125	
	:	155		176				112 .	128	
November	:	156		181				111	129	
	:	158		183			•	111	129	
1942	:									
January	:	162		182				112	126	
February	:	160		173				109	118	
March	:	157		163				105	109	
April	:	157		157				104	104	
May	:	156		153				102	100	
June	:	157		151			•	101	. 97	
July	:	159		153				103	99	
August	:	163		160				105	103	
September	:	165		171				106	110	
October	:	176		183				113	117	
	:									

^{1/} Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter, November, 1942. 2/ Crop Reporting Service, Madison, Wisconsin.

Table 2.—Average wage rates for hired labor in Wisconsin, crop reporting district VIII, and Jefferson County, 1938 - 1942, inclusive L

board	Jefferson	Dol.	2,15	2.30	2,10	000	2,00	2.10	2:10	2.00	2.15	2.40	2.00	2.50	2,30	2.70	2.60	3,10	3.30	3.45
without board	1 ct	-1 -	1.95	2,21	2.29	1.91	1.94	01.0	1.83	2.02	2,21	2,32	2.01	2.55	2.84	2.97	2.79.	3.27	3.59	3
By day		MISCORISIU: VII	1.90	2,10	2.20	7.85	1.95	200	1.80	1.90	2,10	2,20	1.90	2,30	. 2.75	2.90	2.65	3,00	3.30	3.75
ard .	1	Dol.	1.50	1.70	1.70	1.40	1.50	1.00° L	1.40	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.50	1.80	2,16	2,20	2,50.	2,80	2,50	2.75
day with board	4		1.46	1.72	1.79	1.47	1.51	1.64	1.35	1,53	1.64	1.78	1.52	1.87	2,29	2,35	2,15	2.55	2.83	3.14
By day		Dol. Dol.	1,35	1.60	1.65	1.30	1.40	1.55	1.30	1.40	1.55	1.65	1.40	1.65	2,10	2.25	2.05	2,30	2.60	2.90
t board.	1	Dol	45	747	48	41	75	45	36	97	97	47	47	58	58	58	62	77	177	87
By month without board;	to t:	·	45	7 to 7	87	33	45	740	38	147	977	67	43	59	19	19	09	75	77	80
By mont		Misconsin: VII Dol Dol	38	444	45	37	75	43	36	75	7.7	45	07	51	57	58	56	6.8	202	76
board	son	Dol	₩ ₩ ₩	J W W	35	25	30	C	7 S	32	33	32	30	70	45	43	41.	52	53	57
By month with	Dis- :	Dol.	27	32	36	2.4	33	m n	252	32	35	35	29	775	97	97	77	57	99	09 .
By mon		Misconsin: VIII Dol. Dol.	25	7 CC	32	23	53	8	22	29	31	32	27	36	745	43	07	647	52	55
	Month	Vear	1938 - January	April		1939 - January :	April :	July	1970 - Jannary	·	July	October :	1941 - January:	April :	July	October :	1942 - January:	4	July	October
			1-1			1 1			-				11				[1			

Crop Reporting District VIII includes six south central Wisconsin counties: Columbia, Dodge, Dane, Jefferson, Green, and Rock. State Crop Reporting Service, Walter Ebling, State Statistician.

Table 3.--Monthly wages paid able-bedied men, 1941 and 1942, Jefferson County

	:					Married		
Rates	:_	board	and	room			per	rquisites
per month	:	1942	:	1941	:	1942	:	1941
Dollars	:	Number		Number		Number		Number
Original medical digitals of willings	:						• •	
35	:	800 000		1 1		84	*	1
• * 40	:	2			ra e t	· . — ·		2
45	:	1		1				1
50	:	6		2				2
55	:	~-		1				
60		2	*	2	•	. 6		
65	:	1		1				1
70	:			101.000		1		2
7.5	:					. 2		1
90	:	mr sa		-		2		non repr
Average rate	:	(\$55)		(\$52.50)		(\$69.54)	((\$53.50)
	:	,		,				

Source: Farm schedules taken November 17-21, 1942.

Table 4.--Daily wages paid able-bodied men, 1941 and 1942, Jefferson County

4	Sing	le men	: Sin	igle men
:	with	board	: witho	ut board
Rates per day :	1942	: 1941	: 1942	: 1941
Dollars :	Number	Number	Number	Number
1.25 :		. 1		
1.50 :	1	3		
2.00 :	7	7	1	
2.50 :	4	5		
2.75 :	1			
3.00 :	10	1	was size	40 10
3.50 :	2	660 Mar	1	900 GW
4.00 :	3		1	
4.50 :			6	
5.00:	***		7	
Average rate :	(\$2.76)	(\$2.07)	(\$3.47)
:				

Source: Farm schedules taken November 17-21, 1942.

Table 5.--Wages paid handicapped adult workers and Youth, with board and room furnished, 1942,

Jefferson County

Wage	:	Handicapped			
rates		adult			
per month .	•	workers	:	•	Youth
Dollars	:	Number			Number
10 18 20 22 25 30 35 40		1 2 1 3 2			1 1 1 1 4 2
45 50		1		:	
55 Average rate	:	1 (\$35.25)		:	(\$26.54)

Source: Farm schedules taken November 17-21, 1942.

Table 6.--Total production of 30 farms, Jefferson County, and daily milk production per farm, first of month, and milk-feed ratio, Wisconsin,

November 1940 - October 1942

	: Jefferson Count	y,: Wiscons	in 1/
w v v v m	: total 30 farms		: Pounds of
		ent:production:Perce	
Month	: of	-	
and	: last	_	-
year	:Production: year		•
	: Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
	:		
1940 - November	: 370,292	217	
December	: 454,920	211	
1941 - January	: 505,412	231	134
February	: 492,412	252	133
March '	: 558,525	266	135
April	: 551,230	294	136
May :	: 575,860	323	148
June :	: 494,389	391	154
July	: 411,037	355	152
August	: 345,234	298	156
September .	: 330,735	272	145
October	: 419,343	243	156
Nov. 1940-0ct. 194		074 700	2 5 7
December	: 438,701 118 : 499,641 110		153
1942 - January	=1 (==0 ==0		147
February	: 546,208 108 : 518.476 105		135 126
March	: 583,684 104	· .	117
April	: 569,029 101		113
May	: 603,893 105	7 7	111
June	: 499,806 101		113
July	: 382,990 93	2/	117
August	: 326,845 95		125
September	: 325,378 98		135
October	: 396,059 94	·	144
Nov. 1941-Oct. 1944			
	:		
	:		

^{1/} Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter.

Table 7.--Deliveries of milk from 30 farms, Jefferson County, producing milk for cheese making, grade A milk and for butter production,

November 1940 - October 1942

-		** :	10 far	ms	: 10 far	ms	: 10 fa	rms
	Month	: <u>T</u>	Producing	:Percent	t:Producing:		t:Producing	:Percent
	and				t: grade A			
	year		Cactories				: making	: year
White for the party or special or to		:	Pounds		Pounds		Pounds	
		:						
1940	- November	. :	97,348	•	116,527	,	156,417	
	December	:	140,604	•	145,886	•	168,430	
1941	- January	:	155,537	•	157,330	,	192,545	
	February	:	148,230	•	158,582	•	185,600	
	March	:	162,954	•	173,872		. 221,699	
	April	:	154,306		163,538	•	233,386	
	May		149,322	,	173,601	*	252,937	
	June	:	122,021		150,819	*	221,549	
	July	:	81,457		126,126	•	203,454	
	August	:	48,515	*	109,345		187,374	
	September		57,099	*	100,167		173,469	
	October	:	84,441	. *	117,978	•	216,924	
Nov.	1940-0ct. 1	941:1	,401,834	•	1,693,771	•	2,413,784	
	November	:	110,721	113	127,818	110	200,162	128
	December	:	144,324	103	148,828	101	206,489	123
1942	- January	:	161,102	104	165,861	105	219,245	114
	February	:	158,402	107	159,413	101	200,661	108
	March	:	170,421	105	178,051	102	235,212	106
	April	:	153,499	100	171,491	105	244,039	105
	May	:	159,335	106	186;297	107	258,261	102
	June	:	124,620	102	154,818	103	220,368	99
	July	:	79,766	98	118,518	94	184,706	91
	August	:	50,871	105	97,403	89	178,571	95
	September	:	58,127	102	89,876	90 .	177,375	102
	October	:	86,851	103	115,029	98	194,179	90
Nov.	1941-Oct. 1	942:1	,458,039	104	1,713,403	.101	2,519,268	104
		:						
		:						

Table 8.--Prices paid farmers for milk delivered to cheese factories and grade A receiving stations in Jefferson County, and milk for all uses in Wisconsin.

November 1940 - October 1942

		:	Jeffers	on County		: Wi	sconsin;
	Month			Grac			uses 1/
	and			f:			:Percent of
*************	year		:last year	:Dollars:1	ast year	:Dollars	s:last year
1910		: 1.45		1.98			e and her of 24 h dr. h
1)40	December			1.90			
19/1	- January			1.69		1.55	
	February			1.69		1.48	
	March	: 1.35		1.70		1.50	**
	April	: 1.46		1.80	•	1.56	
	May .	: 1.60		1.85		1.66	
	June	: 1.70		1.89	•	1.78	
	July	: 1.88	•	2.10	•	1.86	
	August	: 2.00		2.15		. 1.99	
	September	: 2.10		2.47	•	2.15	
	October	: 2.15	•	2.55		2.23	
	November ·	: 2.15	143	2.61	132	2.29	143
	December		- 143	2.56	135	2.31	156
1942	- January	: 2.10.	153	2.50	143	. 2.30	153
	February	: 1.97	149	2.38	141	2.19	141
	March	: 1.83	135	2.29	135	2.06	124
	April	: 1.79	123	2.28	127	1.98	111
	May	: 1.78	111	2.15	116	1.94	117
	June	: 1.77	. 94	2.11	112	. 1.91	107
	July	: 1.77	94	2.28	109	1.94	104
	August	: 1.85	93	2.46	119	. 2.02	102
	September		95	2.62	106	2.16	100
	October	: 2.10	98	2.81	110	2.32*	.104
		:					
		:					

^{1/} Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter, November 1942.

^{*} Preliminary.

Table 9.--Prices of feeds, twine, seeds and fertilizer in Jefferson County, 1941 and 1942

	:	:	:	1942 as a
Item	: Unit	: 1941 :	1942 :	percent
	:	: :	:	of 1941
The state of the s	:	Dollars	Dollars	
	:			
Bran	: Cwt.	1.75	2.00	114
Standard middlings	: Cwt.	1.75	2.10	120
Brewers' grains	: Cwt.	1.75	1.90	109
Oilmeal	: Cwt.	2.25	2.40	107
Cottonseed meal	: Cwt.	1.50	2.60	173
Soybean meal	: Cwt.	2.15	2.40	112
16 percent dairy ration	: Cwt.	1.80	2.00	111
32 percent dairy ration	: Cwt.	2.65	2.85	104
38 percent dairy ration	: Cwt.	2.70	2.75	102
Twine	: Bale	3.95	4.66	118
Alfalfa seed	: Bu.	13.80	22.50	164
Clover seed	: Bu.	9.60	12.50	130
Timothy seed	Bu.	3.00	4.50	133
Alsike clover seed	· Bu ·	11.10	14.50	130
Sweet clover seed	Bu.	4.85	8.40	173
Hybrid corn	: Bu.	4.50	5.50	122
Soybeans	: Bu.	1.75	2.40	137
Wheat	: Bu.	1.65	1.97	120
Oats	· Bu ·	.65	•95	146
3-12-12	: Ton	39.80	40.30	101
· 0-12-12	Ton	34.10	34.60	101
Cal Cal Cal	:		1,2 2	
	:			

Table 10.--Size of farm and source of labor, 1941 and 1942.

(Farms grouped by number of milk cows.)

Jefferson County

	: 20+	cows .	: 12-19	cows	: 0-11 0	ows
	: 1942	: 1941	: 1942	: 1941	: 1942	: 1941
Farms in county 1/	:602	2/	1,291	2/	1,107	2/
Number farms surveyed	: 44	144	47	47	11	11
Size of farm (Average per farm)	•					
Acres :	:192.1	192.1	106.8	106.8	85.7	85.7
Cows Heifers (Freshened) Hogs Hens	: 26.6 : 5.2 : 31.0 :109.0	25.4 4.7 24.0 105.0	3.6	15.5 2.5 4.0 161.0	9.6 1.8 8.0 80.0	10.2 1.8 7.0 55.0
Crops in 1942 (Average per farm)	:					
Corn (acres) Small grains (acres) Hay (acres) Special crops (acres)	: 31 : 36 : 34 : 4.3		20 21 21 1.0	2/2/2/2/	14 15 24 0.8	2/2/
Labor used (total months per farm)3/ Hired labor Family labor:	: 25.19 : 6.91	24.45 7.35	18.90 1.89		15.07	15.24
Operator Wife Sons Daughters Other	: 11.20 : 1.28 : 5.45 : 0.10 : 0.25	11.05 0.93 4.89 0.05 0.18	10.40 2.20 3.79 0.09	2.14 3.83 0.34		0.40
Milking machines used (Percent)	: : 89	80	47	47	9	9

^{1/} Data from office of State Agricultural Statistician.

^{2/} Not obtained.

^{3/} Labor of women, children, and handicapped adults is shown here in months equivalent for labor of a man.

Table 11.--Indexes of farm wages and prices of 30 farm products in Wisconsin (Comparable months, 1935-39 = 100)

Month an	ind year :	Farm wage rates 1	: : Farm prices2/	: Ratio of : wages to prices
1940 - Je Ar Ju 000 1941 - Je Ar Ju 000 1942 - Je	anuary : pril : aly : etober : anuary : pril : aly : etober :	110 102 105 106 122 128 141 142 188 176	96 92 93 93 102 111 129 136 145	115 111 113 114 120 115 109 104 130
Ju	etober :	174 183	150 154	116

Wisconsin Farm Income and Prices of Farm Products, 1910-1942, Bulletin 221, Crop Reporting Service, Madison, Wisconsin, p. 130.

^{2/} Wisconsin Farm Price Index (30 items), Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter, December 1940 and October 1942, Crop Reporting Service, Madison, Wisconsin.